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PROCEEDINGS

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GENERAL NOTES.

THE TYPE OF THE GENUS *COMASTER*.

The genus *Comaster* was established by Professor Agassiz in 1836 to contain the comatulids in which the rays divide more than once. He cites as the type *Comatula multiradiata* Lamarck. The specific name *multiradiata* was first used by Linnæus in 1758, the type specimen being still extant at Lund. Lamarck includes under his *Comatula multiradiata* as a questionable synonym the *Asterias multiradiata* of Linnæus. I have previously considered the *multiradiata* of Lamarck to be a synonym of the *multiradiata* of Linnæus because of this, and because one of Lamarck's specimens is identical with the Linnæan type. But the case can not be disposed of so easily. In 1832 Goldfuss described and figured another *multiradiata* based upon a specimen at Bonn. Müller, in revising the group, decided that the name *multiradiata* must hold for the species which had been adequately described—that of Goldfuss—and he redescribed the Lamarckian *Comatula multiradiata* under the name *Alecto multifida* from observations made by Troschel on Lamarck's specimens. This action fixes the identity of the *Comatula multiradiata* of Lamarck, and, therefore, of the type of *Comaster*. *Alecto multifida* is a somewhat anomalous species, congeneric with, though not closely related to, *Phanogenia typica* of Lovén. *Comaster* must, therefore, supplant *Phanogenia*. This leaves the genus which I have previously called *Comaster* without a name. It may be called **Capillaster**, the type to be *Actinometra sentosa* P. H. Carpenter, 1888.

The type of *Comaster* is *Comatula multiradiata* Lamarck (not *Asterias multiradiata* Linnæus) = *Alecto multifida* J. Müller.

—*Austin H. Clark.*

PHOTOTAXIS AMONG CRINOIDS.

While on board the *Albatross* among the Philippine Islands, Dr. Paul Bartsch captured a small specimen of *Iridometra nana* which had been attracted to, and was swimming about, a submerged electric light. So far as I know this is the first record of positive phototaxis among the crinoids. It should be remembered that the specimen is only about half the adult size, as it is possible, and even probable, that the reactions of the adult of this species are quite different. —*Austin H. Clark.*